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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



[REDACTED]
NIGRANDE IRBM COMPLEX
USSR

LAUNCH AREA NO 3

TCS-81346/65

OCTOBER 1965

COPY

6 PAGES

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NIGRANDE IRBM COMPLEX, USSR LAUNCH AREA NO 3

OCTOBER 1965

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

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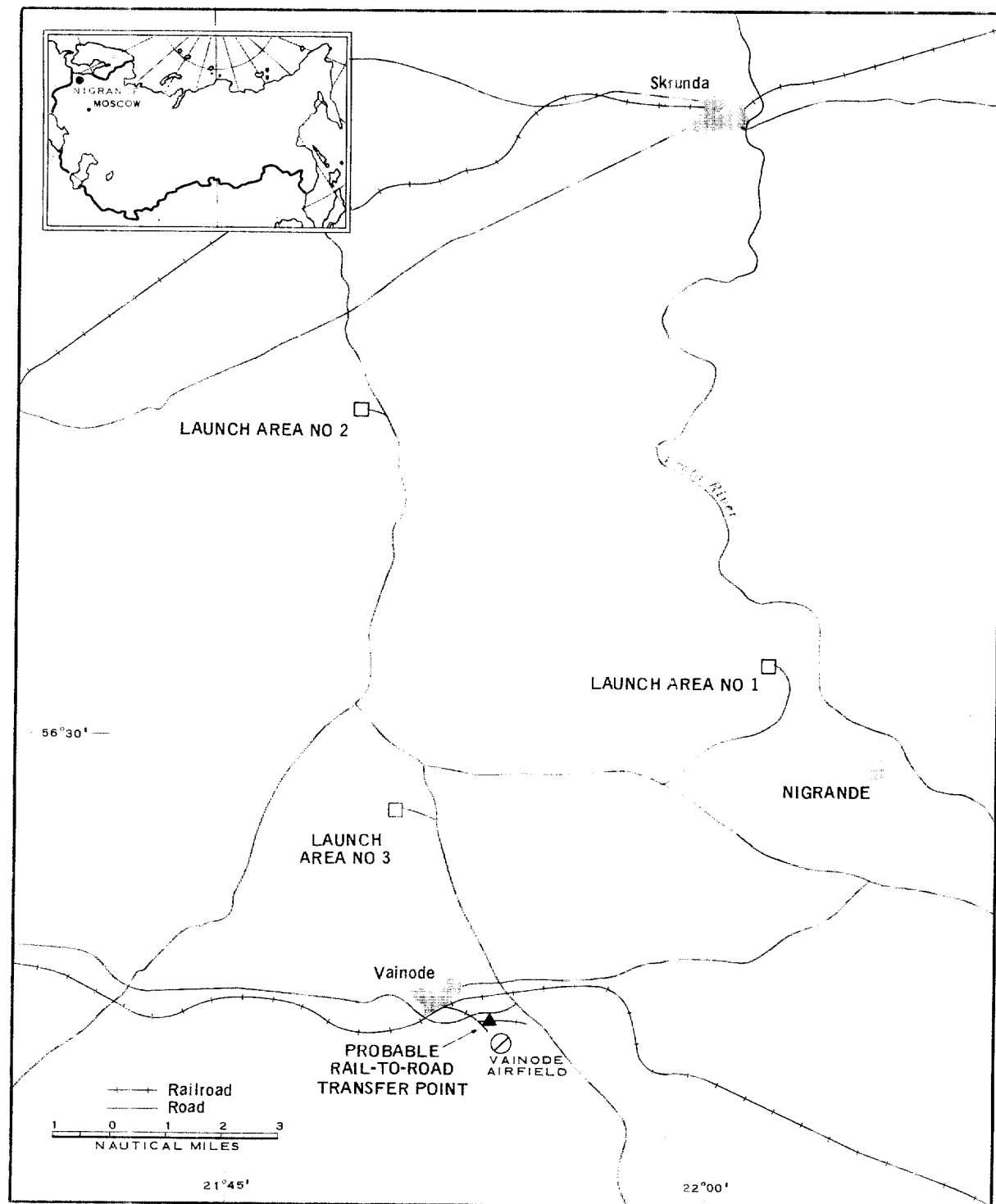


FIGURE 1. NIGRANDE IRBM COMPLEX, USSR.

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**NIGRANDE IRBM COMPLEX, USSR
LAUNCH AREA NO 3**

Launch Area No 1 (TDI name: Nigrande IRBM Launch Site) -- Type III 56-31-00N 22-02-15E [REDACTED]

25X1A

Launch Area No 2 (TDI name: Skrunda IRBM Launch Site) -- Type IV 56-35-45N 21-49-15E [REDACTED]

25X1A

Launch Area No 3 (TDI name: Vainode IRBM Launch Site) -- Type IV 56-28-30N 21-50-15E [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1D This report, based on KEYHOLE photography from [REDACTED] updates NPIC/R-100/64 1/ pertaining to the Nigrande IRBM Complex (Figure 1) and also updates NPIC/R-190/64 2/ pertaining to the Nigrande Fixed Field IRBM Site, which is now abandoned.

The area of the Vainode launch site previously consisted of a fixed field site with 2 launch positions, which were approximately 450 feet apart, and interconnected by a loop road network. This field site was situated in a wooded area of approximately 520 feet elevation. The area is 9.7 nautical miles (nm) (road distance) west of Launch Area No 1 and 8.9 nm (road distance) south of Launch Area No 2. In addition it is 28 nm east of Liepaja and the Baltic Sea, in Lithuanian SSR.

25X1D The first noticeable changes in the vicinity of the field site that can be related to the construction of a hard launch site were observed in [REDACTED] When seen in [REDACTED] a clearing was observed northwest of the field site. This can be related to the clearing for the launch area. By [REDACTED] 25X1D [REDACTED] the launch area had been mostly cleared of trees. An access road leading from the main north-south road to Vainode had been built into the area of the field site and the road to the launch area had been widened. The natural clearings east of the field site were beginning to show signs of change, and were the future location of the site support facility.

25X1D The next coverage of the Vainode launch site was in [REDACTED] at which

time the facilities were snow covered. The main access road into the launch area was cleared of snow and in use. One, or possibly 2, barracks could be identified in the site support area. On this mission the field site was visible; however, it was not cleared of snow.

In [REDACTED] the future launch area had been completely cleared of trees and the entire clearing appeared to be excavated to a depth of a few feet. The site support facility consisted of 3 probable barracks/administration buildings, 1 probable messhall, 4 additional unidentified buildings, and numerous clearings with indications of activity. 25X1D

The launch site was seen next on interpretable photography in [REDACTED]

25X1D [REDACTED] The 3 launch silos were in the midstage of construction, with the left rear silo open, which allowed viewing into the hole. The 2 forward launch silos and central control bunker could also be seen. In the site support facility were 2 additional probable barracks/administration buildings, 2 unidentified buildings, and 2 secondary roads within the site. The field site had completely lost its identity by this time because of the clearing of trees and the construction near the site.

[REDACTED] was probably one of the best pictorial coverages of Vainode to that time. In the launch area 2 of the launch silos were open. The left front silo had a probable overhead scaffolding to support an elevator in the silo. The control bunker appeared to have an access road leading down to its right rear. None of the launch facilities had 25X1D

25X9

been earth mounded. Approximately 10 barracks/administration buildings, 1 probable messhall, and at least 12 unidentified miscellaneous buildings could be seen in the site support facility. Two large garages had been constructed within the area of the old fixed field site.

25X9

25X9

As seen on this mission, the area had been cleared of trees, and 1 building, probably the bunkered building of the facility, was under construction. The electronics area was identified directly north of the support facility and consisted of 4 or 5 horizontal dipole antennas, 1 control building under construction, and 1 unidentified building. No significant changes were observed on

25X1D

25X1D

Several small clearings were observed within the area of the facility on

25X1D

25X1D

On each of the silos appeared to have a small building on top of the opening.

Heavy haze partially obscured the launch site on however, the small buildings over the silo openings were prominent.

25X1D

25X1D

When seen in 1 additional building had been constructed within the site support facility (Figures 2 and 3).

25X1D

was not readily interpretable. No significant changes were observed in the facilities.

25X1D

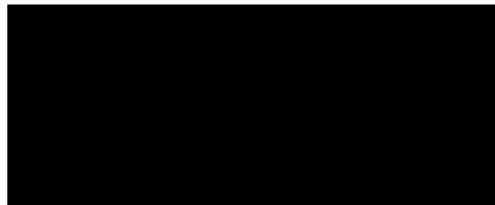
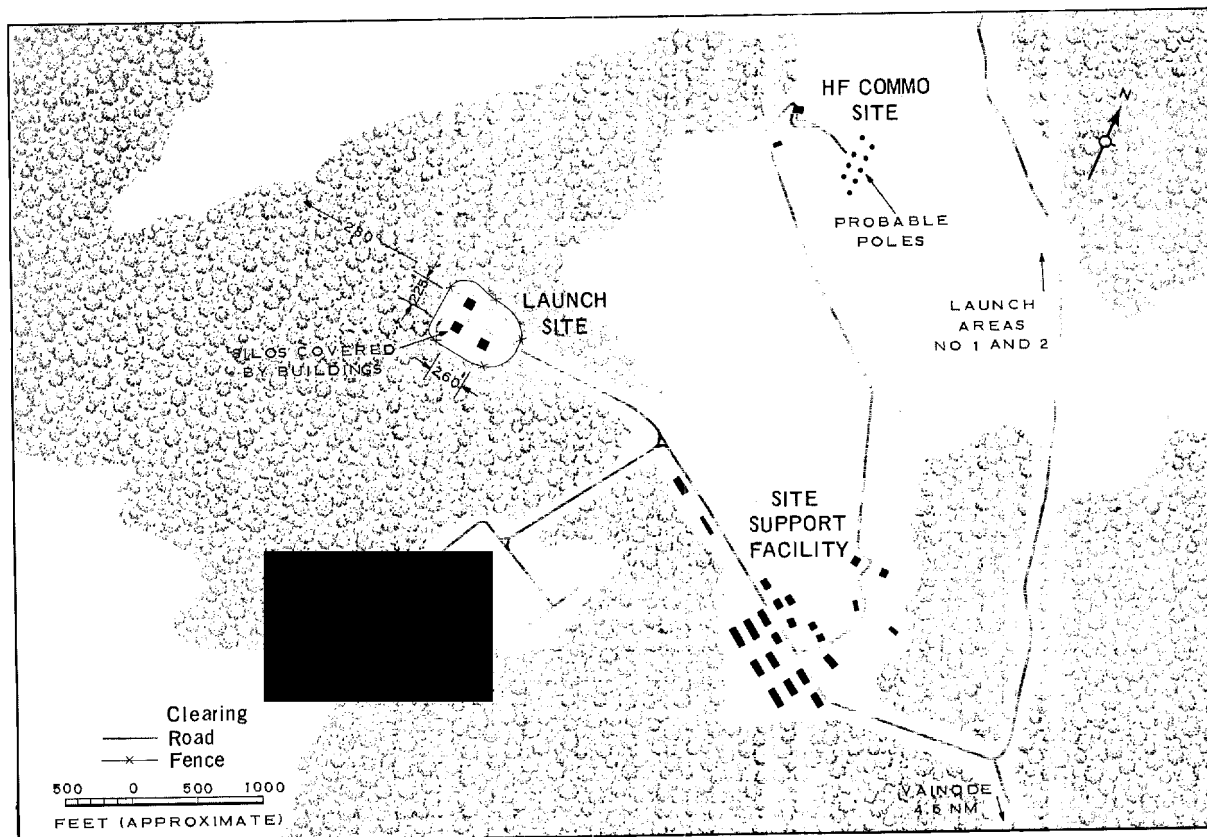


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FIGURE 2. LAUNCH AREA NO 3, NIGRANDE IRBM COMPLEX.

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SITE SUPPORT FACILITY

- 2 Vehicle maintenance sheds 230 X 45
- 10 Barracks/administration buildings 200 X 45
- 11 Miscellaneous buildings undetermined

FIGURE 3. LAUNCH AREA NO 3, NIGRANDE IRBM COMPLEX.

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When seen in [REDACTED] the launch silos were still covered with small buildings. The snow had been cleared or had melted from between the 3 silos, leaving an area of bare earth. The launch control center still was snow covered except for an area to the right and one to the rear of the center. There

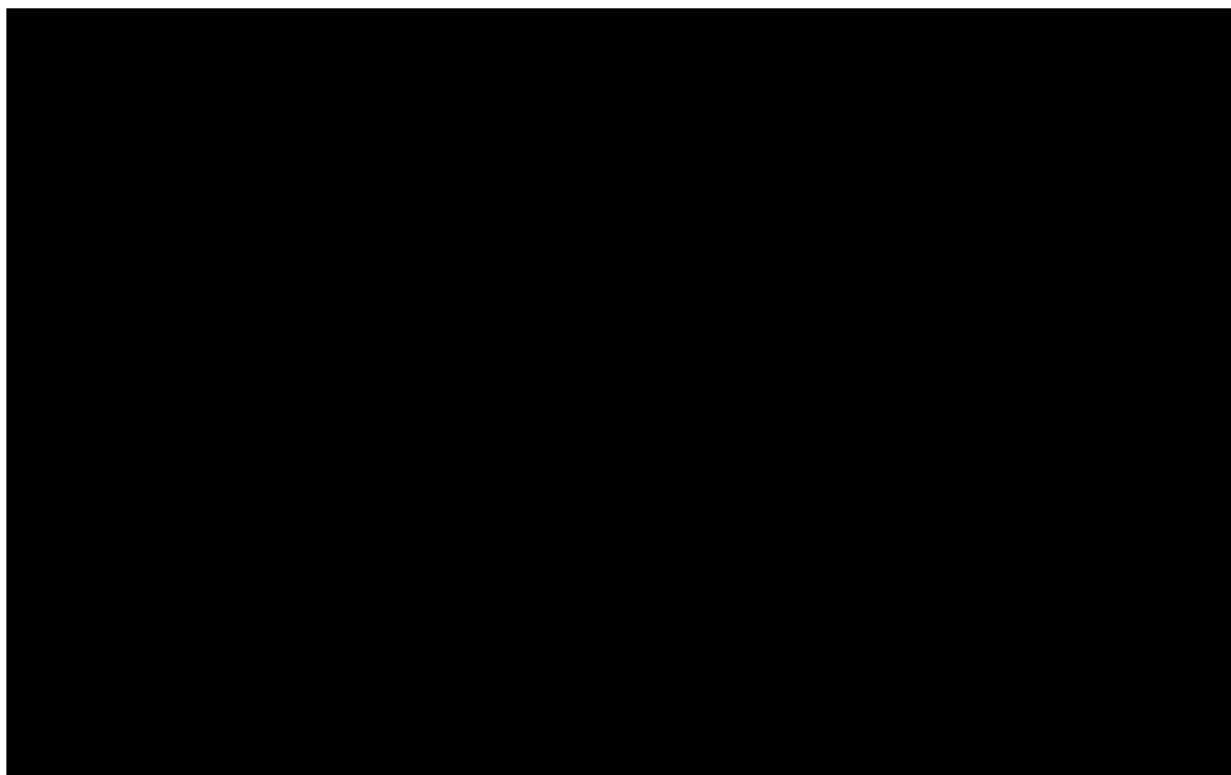
was very little sign of track activity leading to the launch area. No significant change was observed in the [REDACTED] facility or the site support facility.

The nearest probable rail-to-road transfer point is located in Vainode, 4.5 nm south-south-east over loose-surfaced, secondary road.

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25X1D

REFERENCES



DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. R-100/64, *Nigrande IRBM Complex, USSR*, Feb 64 (TOP SECRET RUFF)
2. NPIC. R-190/64, *Nigrande IRBM Complex, USSR, Fired Field "Type 1" Site*, Mar 64 (TOP SECRET RUFF)

MAPS OR CHARTS

- AMS. Series N501, Sheet No 34-11, 4th ed, May 64, scale 1:250,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)
- SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0159-25HL, 5th ed, Jul 63, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

GMAIC. 23-5

NPIC PROJECT

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